WENDELL POST

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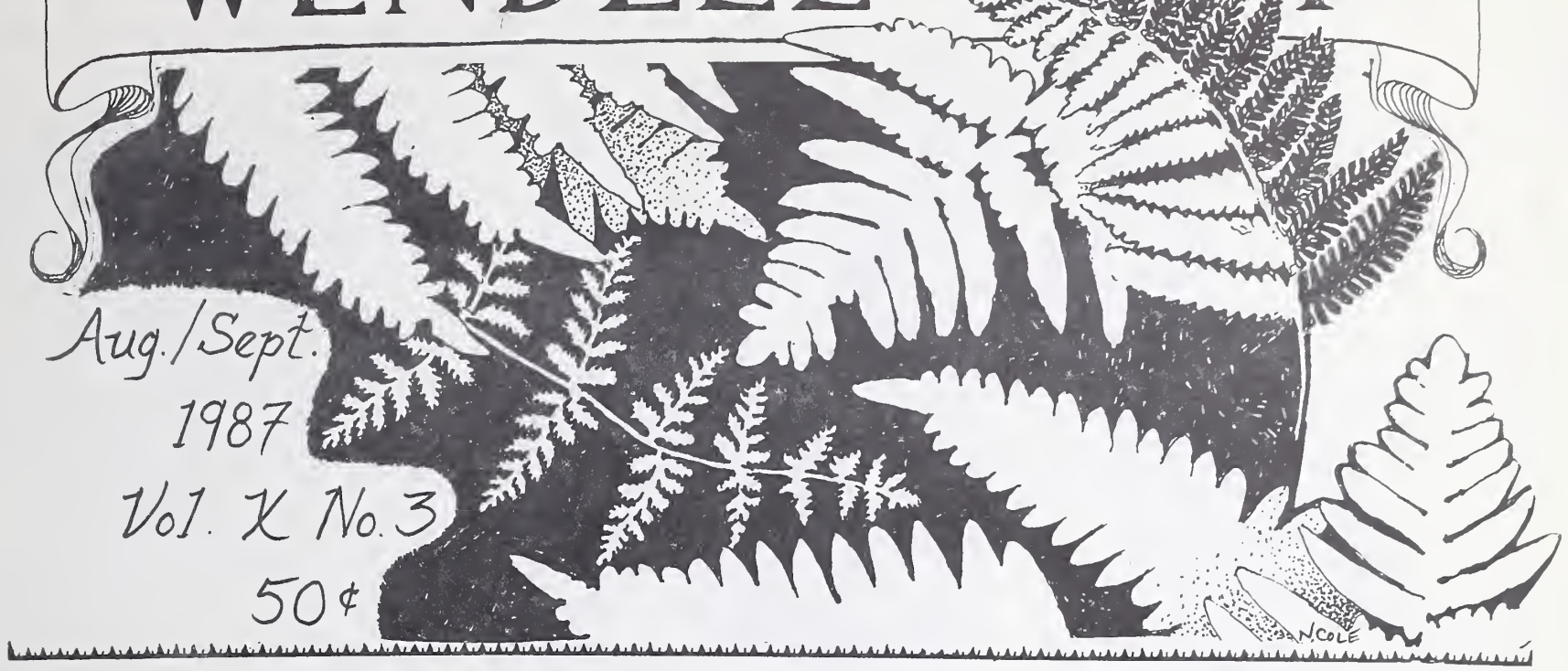
50¢



Wendell Wilderness Eyed for Development

One of the largest parcels in Wendell is a 440-acre tract of old farmland grown to large trees that lies on either side of Locke Village Road between Locke Hill Road and the homestead it includes known as Stillwaters. The name comes from the deep, placid pond on the other side of the earthen dam from the house and barn, on the northwest side of the road. In the middle of the pond is an island supporting large pine trees. The pond itself has the distinction of being the only man-made pond in the Commonwealth to have "gone natural"--developed its own self-propagating school of trout and other native fish. In area, it is about the size of Ruggles, Fisk and Bowen's Ponds.

In recent weeks, a development concern known as Connecticut Valley Land Developmant Co. has been working to close a deal on purchase of the property for a sum of reportedly somewhere between $650,000 and $1 million. Backhoes have excavated several dozen holes for perk tests. Concerned neighbors have spoken to the owner, Wolf, who has been noncommittal, and to officials of the development company who have acknowledged their bid to obtain the property.

Virtually the whole parcel is under Chapter 61, a state program to preserve and manage the state's forestland. The intent of the law is generally considered to be to protect it from changes of use such as development, but rapidly escalating land prices have weakened the financial incentive provided by the law to keep it in forest. Under the law, a property owner who wishes to declassify (remove from Chapter 61) forestland must pay the town rollback taxes--the difference between the reduced amount paid under the program and the full amount that would have been paid without Chapter 61 abatement. Though Mr. Wolf hasn't said so, town officials believe the pending deal may involve declassification of all or part of the property. (An owner may remove from classification in increments, or all at once). Under the provisions of the law, at the present time, Wolf would owe rollback taxes for five years preceding the declassification...unless he waits for about three more years, at which time the period for which he owes will begin to increase up to nine years.

Another provision of Chapter 61 is that if a sale is made while the property is still under classification, the town must be granted the right of first refusal. Ironically, as development pressures increase to where the town is interested in acquiring such parcels in self defense, land prices may have jumped enough to make it more profitable for the owner to pay the penalty and sell it on the open market instead.

But rather than see a potential hundred or so new houses go into this rolling land, stitched with stonewalls and extending almost back to Bullard Pasture Road, without a contest, a group of citizens organized by Sharon Gensler and Prudy Smith has been meeting to try to interest a conservation organization in buying all or part of it, or, failing that, create a "Limited development" arrangement in which only a portion of the property would be developed, and the

cont' p.2

Locke Village Rd.

New Post for Postmaster

Cheryl Richardson grew up in the yellow house that is our post office in the center of town. Her mother Gladys Powling was Postmaster for many years. Cheryl has served as postmaster relief for 17 years.

Two years ago, in May 1985, Cheryl was appointed the title of Postmaster for the Wendell post office.

And now we have all said congratulations to our friend as she moves over to the Shutesbury post office to be the new postmaster there on another hilltop. It is a step up from an EAS-11 to an EAS-13, a bigger post office with more responsibilities, and a step up in her career with the postal service. Cheryl replaces Mary E. Dihlmann who was postmaster for 30 years.

Besides being a postmaster relief, Cheryl has worked as a substitute teacher at Swift River Elementary, as well as in Orange and Leverett. She also drove a kindergarten bus route.

Some folks from Wendell have missed Cheryl's smiling face so much they've driven over to the Shutesbury post office to say howdy. After all, it's only a couple of miles.

Congratulations Cheryl on your promotion to postmaster in Shutesbury!!

50¢ PLEASE!

The Post's newsstand distribution system depends on people's honesty to make it work. In case it's not apparent, the Post is a volunteer, non-profit publication run on a shoestring. Our honor boxes are elementary in keeping with our entire effort: you drop two quarters or coins equaling 50¢ into the cardboard tube and help yourself to a paper.

These newsstand receipts are a major reason we can--or cannot--meet our obligation to the printer (Highland Press in Athol), maintain the IBM typewriter, and supply film to the Post photographer.

At some of the outlets, shortages have been noted. This has been reflected in our bank account. The paper recently had to make up a deficit with a bake sale, odd since both ads and circulation are strong. That sort of fundraising energy is better saved for the time when the paper needs a new typewriter, or the stock of graphics supplies needs replenishment.

The Post is ten years old, respectable for a tiny newspaper. We must remind you, however, not to take us for granted.

Wendell Post Staff

Rumors of Rt. 2 Decision 'False'

Rumors about a decision on the Rt. 2 relocation matter have been flashing around Wendell and Erving in recent weeks, in particular, reports of state talks with Erving Paper Co. The Post contacted Jane Garvey, associate commissioner of the state Department of Public Works to ask about the status of things.

"There hasn't been any decision made yet," she said adamantly. Asked about the rumors, she said, "Yes, those came up at a meeting last week with the commissioner. There is absolutely no substance to them."

Whatever the status of the decision-making, the state has promised to decide shortly between the Low Profile Alignment, through the Town of Erving, and the South Bank Alignment, a routing through Wendell State Forest.

Jonathan von Ranson

WENDELL POST

Vol. X No. 3

CONTACT STAFF

Anne Diemand 544-6111 (Ads)
Kathy Becker 4-2086

NEW SALEM CONTACT

Althea Gilmore 4-3843

STAFF

Joshua Heineman
Bev Cowdrick Lisa Aubin
Teri Nelson Koehler Steven Broll
Cheryl Richardson Mez Davis
Jonathan von Ranson Gladys Powling
Eileen Sauvageau Donna Huntington
Laurel Wilson Susan DunLany
Sylvia Wetherby Clare Green

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mez Davis
Ed Judice

CONTRIBUTORS

David Boatwright Regina Howarth
Ed Chase Leonard Lubinsky
Elsie Diemand Parker Cleveland
Deb Radway Richard Alves
Anna Hartjens Dan Keller
Nina Keller Linda Facey
Marion Herrick Terry Campbell
Everett Rickets Daria Nielson
Charles Smith Ginny Schimmel
Mason Phelps Wendell Fire Assoc.

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An Encounter with Janice Barrett: Wendell's Town Assistant

It happened to be a delightfully sunny and clear summer afternoon as I drove up to the Wendell Town Hall. The window was open. I could hear the sound of an active typewriter. Janice Barrett, Wendell Town Assistant, was busy at work. I walked in and Janice turned and warmly greeted me with a pleasant smile and soft voice. Our interview was on its way.

Janice is employed by the Town of Wendell as Town Assistant, and she does just that--anyone who works for the town, she is able to assist. She works Monday through Friday, 8-4:30. Any town department/office may request her help by completing a form which is available from a committee member, such as Dan Keller, Jesse Wetherby, Judith Wilder, Caroline Manley or Michael Idoine. At present, Janice assists Judith Wilder at her home tax office for two days a week; and another two days she's assisting Jesse Wetherby. Janice is available to help people with the trememdous overload of work. She enjoys learning the tasks required of her. As we talked, Janice readily laughed and smiled; and it appeared to me that her presense would make any task go smoother. She is aware of the amount of back work that needs to be completed in some town departments, and she expresses eager concern to help put items in order.

Also included within Janice's responsibilities is answering the phone while she's present in the town hall. She soon found out that she was often called upon for directions from wayward travelers passing thru Wendell's Common. Since Janice lives in Orange, she wasn't very familiar with the streets in Wendell, so she rummaged through the drawers until she came upon a map of Wendell. She now keeps the map as a handy reference in her top desk drawer. She said, "I even had a man call from Nashville, TN needing directions to Wendell." One just never knows what will be required of her when she steps into a position with the Town of Wendell, but I will say that Janice Barrett has the initiative to tackle any request (no matter how small) with a caring attitude and gentle enthusiasm which provides that delicate balance of a social, homey touch combined with a business approach to get the job done.

Janice is also acquainting herself with the town and the issues peculiar to Wendell as she sits in on various committee meetings. She made her presense known when a member was making a joke about filing some information never to be seen again; so Janice spoke up and offered her assistance to help file, provided the committee had completed the request for assistance form. They shuffled through their papers and found the form, and now she will fit their filing need into her schedule.

Janice has found all the people she works for and with very friendly. She feels very comfortable with her position and says, "I hope I can be a little bit of help to everybody." They have all told her, "Make yourself at home." Janice said that even the interview she experienced for the job was rather like a family gathering than a scarey inquiry. She felt at home from the start. Janice was pleased to make a career change from work at Sogard to the Wendell Town Asst. position because it is in sympathy with her college studies in accounting and business.

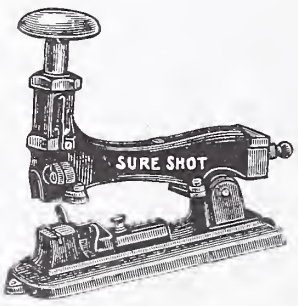
Janice also expresses interest and concern with Wendell's growth and wonders about the prospects of localized town offices. She expressed concern about Orange's growth boom and water supply needs. She has an eye upon some of the town issues, and enjoys discussing her views.

As I asked Janice if she had other interests and hobbies; she smiled and said with a chuckle, "I have seven children." She has a son who is a senior at Mahar and a third grader at home. Her other children reside in Kentucky; Tulley, Athol, and one is in the Air Force in Spain and Turkey. And one child is to be married this August 1st.

Before I left, Janice pulled out the Wendell Street list and handed me the card and asked me to update it. I did. It was last completed seven years ago. She knows that there's a lot of catch up work to do. I feel assured that in due time the work will be accomplished with the assistance of Janice Barrett. Stop in and say hello to her at the town hall, and she may even have you update your street census.

The Town of Wendell welcomes you, Janice.

Clare Green



Locke Village Road Tract for Sale

cont' from p. 1

rest, including the pond, protected through outright acquisition with the proceeds. The Town of Wendell has been mentioned as a possible principal in the limited development plan. The method was used by the Town of Athol several months ago to protect Lawton Tree Farm. A complicating factor in Wendell's case is that two of Wendell's three selectmen are affiliated with organizations that might be involved in the arrangements--Michael Idoine with Mt. Grace Trust and Jim Slavas with the Isleboro Group, a limited development partnership.

Jonathan von Ranson

Silent Ladies

Silent Ladies,
You gracefully bow
Surrender to the One force.
Delicately you danced.
Be not solemn, but joyful.
We dance our petals
To the very last breath.
In honor and love,
I thank you, daisies.

D.C. Green

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Gleanings from the Country Store

The Great Trout Caper by Richard Alves

I guess it was the end of April or the first of May. I had already been fishing for two weeks. I hadn't caught anything and really didn't expect to. Too early, too cold, nobody had caught anything yet but I had a bad case of AN-FISH-IPATION. I was ready to try anything for the first of the season.

Jeff Fawcett had lent me his waders and I headed for the Sawmill River. Thirty minutes later I was on my way home to change into something warm and dry. All it takes is one slippery rock. Candy says I should get training wheels for my waders. I do it every year. Last year I flipped the canoe in the Swift River the end of March. I'm used to it, I expect it, the season doesn't open for me until I do it.

Jeff and I were having a cup of coffee at the store discussing the beaver ponds around Wendell and which ones might support bass and why couldn't we stock a couple of ponds and keep it quiet. We called the hatchery and were told they had bass for sale. Upon more detailed inquiry at the hatchery we were told we needed permits, testing, and the water to be stocked had to be on private property. So much for that idea.

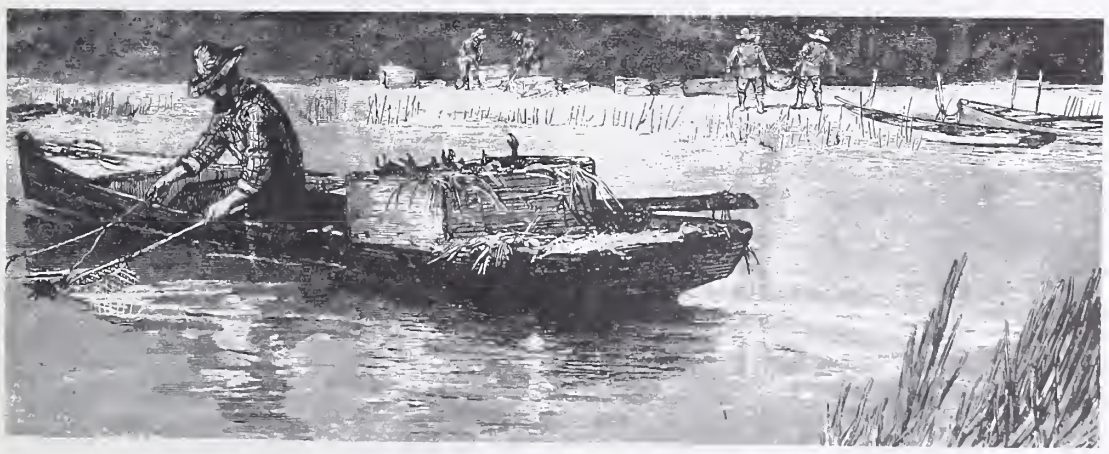
While we were there we decided to look around. We were given an indepth tour. During the tour I mentioned the poor taste of hatchery trout and how natives taste much better. The man giving us the tour proceeded to explain how the new feed they use made this a thing of the past. "Here, let me give you some fish to take home and try," he said. Ten minutes later we had a five gallon bucket filled with fifteen Brown, Rainbow, and Brook trout. It didn't take Jeff and I long to decide were going to have some with our bucket of trout.

And fun we did have. You should have seen the expressions when we showed people all those those trout. Well, everybody had the same queation, "Where'd you get em?" Our reply was always the same. "Secret honey hole." So for those of you who are still looking for that secret honey hole, now you know.

I cleaned them all, kept three and gave the rest away.

NEXT ISSUE: THE UNDOING OF MOBY BASS

Mez Davis



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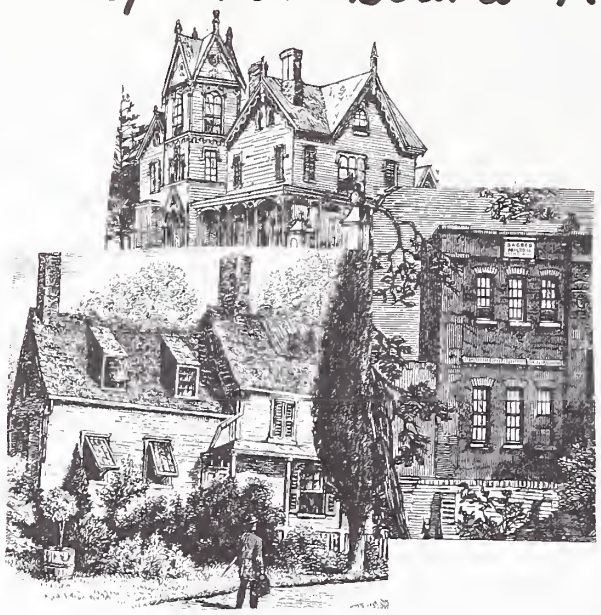
Neighbors vs. Claustrophobia: Board Hears Cries to Act!



The Wendell Planning Board was taken aback recently when 30 townspeople at a community meeting told the board to act now to control development, and plan later. Reports of the imminent sale of almost 450 acres of town known variously as "Wendell Wilderness" and "Stillwaters" to developers (see story) heightened the turnout and the sense of urgency at the July 30 meeting.

Suggestions included strictly limiting the number of building permits that could be issued in a year (phased growth); discouraging "exploitive" professional development and encouraging owner-built housing; and requiring payment in advance for the impact of newcomers on schools and other town services. There was little or no objection to an idea, voiced repeatedly, of swiftly taking Shutesbury's new zoning bylaws and subdivision regulations and making them Wendell's. Then, proponents said, with the potential of runaway development halted, take the time to modify and tailor to Wendell's particular situation.

As the residents grappled with the prospect of suburbanization always creeping--sometimes leaping--upon them, they voiced a combination of consternation and anguish. "We need to discover where our aquifers are and protect them," said Sharon Gensler. "I don't know if the Shutesbury regulations are good, and phased development the best," commented Prudy Smith, "but I want to come up with something tomorrow!" "Let's keep the town open for good people to come here... and keep the land open, too," pleaded Marianne Sundell, noting that Wendell seems to attract an exceptional breed of people.

Among those at the meeting, newcomers and those sensitive to the prevailing desire for a place in the country struggled with especially hard choices between opportunity for an affordable home for others, and a fit, functioning environment around their own that they feel a responsibility to protect. They made a distinction between homebuilders and developers, in-laws and commuters. "We should be encouraging people who want to build something simple and sturdy that they can live in the rest of their lives, that won't cost all outdoors, and who will still have a nice outdoors around them," said Dorothy Thompson, who is building on Montague Road. Her comments, on the traditional lack of wealth of prospective Wendell residents and on the attitude toward the place, struck an obvious chord. "I don't mind if a few more people put up their own homes," said Amy Hubert. "It's really different than developers putting up boxes."

Selectman Michael Idoine endorsed the use of phased development. "Scheduling (building permits) is a sort of drag-your-feet moratorium, not a close-the-door moratorium," he said. He envisions the town trying to "direct developers' energy toward the kind of development we want" rather than stopping it outright.

Idoine helped galvanize sentiment for clustering what development Wendell permits with his observation the "Our present bylaws cause us to go out and get a little piece of those woods. It feels like an anti-social movement: a three-acre moat. We need to develop settlements that make that community stronger." Rosie Heidkamp said she "likes the neighborhood idea," but bridled at concentric zoning, with small lots centered on the village and larger lots surrounding it. "The poor people will be in the middle," she said, "and the rich on the biggest lots."

Barbara Liberty, a new resident on Plain Rd., recalled her experience with development pressures in a town on Cape Cod. The town responded by zoning large building lots. "Now I wonder if we'd have been better off if they had put up a few condos on the hill. There were a lot of blue heron and ladyslippers. Now they're all gone."

The group seemed unanimous about the need to protect open land. Bev Cowdrick would put the emphasis for preservation on "wetlands and greenbelts." "We're on top of a hill and we're more vulnerable than most towns in terms of water," she said. She feels the greenbelts are essential because of the town's location close to the Quabbin reservation and in the midst of large tracts of state forest. "They're a way in which the animals can move through." Anne Zak said she'd put the emphasis on the positive: "We're here to protect the community--the animals and aquifers. We're not here to discourage development."

An irony of the outcry was not lost on the planning board. Chairman Myron Becker said he was "surprised to hear act now, plan later." Member Jerry Barilla observed that "A while ago we were criticized for trying to act, then study. Now you're asking us to do just that." The board was stung at a recent town meeting when a proposal to limit the number of dwelling units to one per building lot was defeated by people who saw their notion of a future rental cabin or in-law apartment in jeopardy.

Rosie Heidkamp offered the meeting goers her perspective. "On the world scheme of things, we're millionaires--we've got land. That's what the rest of the world is fighting for. It doesn't take much land for a person. It does take room for wildlife, to keep water clean."

Jonathan von Ranson

Some Celebrated Stones

Everyone, native and visitor, identifies Wendell with stones as also our nearby New England towns. Stones have determined our economy, varied small scale farming, industry, commerce, ingenuity. Contrast our flinty fields with the Yazoo Triangle, Mississippi, where you may dig to the fiery center of the earth and not strike a stone; they make their roads of oyster shells.

My road to Montague skirts a noble boulder dropped by the glacier, its mighty mass will never be moved again. In Shutesbury, surrounding a cemetery is as neat an example of drywalling as exists anywhere.

Massachusetts has two especially famous stones, different in background. That on which the Pilgrims stepped unfortunately is honored by droppings of candy wrappers. The printer's stone, used by William Lloyd Garrison for his Liberator paper abominating slavery has intellectual and moral distinction.

The Stone of Scone on which the Bruces of Scotland sat sovereign is now immorally boxed beneath the British coronation chair in Westminster Abbey. The Kingston Stone served similarly for the Saxon sovereigns of England, or at least for a part of it. The London Stone stands at the beginning of Watling Street, which reaches through the country for a hundred miles. Stones placed by the Romans in walls and roads remain.

Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, has different interpretations, but surely proves good organization of labor that could shape such heavy rocks, draw them long distances, and erect them in an enduring monument.

The Cardiff Giant was a famous fake, exhibited as a petrified outsize fellow, dug from a grave in Upstate New York. About three times the normal size of a man, he now lies in a shed in Cooperstown. Another fake, I am sorry to record; almost a hundred and sixty years ago, Joseph Smith was delivered at Palmyra N.Y. golden plates of Mormon by an angel who left his footprint in a large stone. Many followers were convinced by the messages, until it was revealed that our Joseph had had dealings with a neighboring stonecutter.

What is the name of the principal diamond in the crown of England? "Star of India?" It blazes in the twilight of the jewel house of Edinburgh Castle.

A distinguished place is held by an eolith, a dawn-stone, crudely broken by a prehistoric man to derive a stone tool. This was the emergence of brute into human kind. The effort to assist nature no longer relied on nature utterly. Museums have a few precious examples.

Do you think the Rock of Ages is a myth? Then come to my South and see the highly colored pictures of it in any modest home kitchen; an anxious Christian clings to its wave-dashed sides.

B. Mitchell

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Recycling at Wendell Dump

We are entering a new era of trash collection. This is due to the escalating costs of disposing of our wastes.

Year	Costs per ton to empty compactor	Annual Dump costs
1980		$14,500
1984		$16,500
1985		$19,200
1986	$26 - $36.50	$23,600
1987	$59 ($75 expected by fall)	$34,393 (projected)

We would like you to view your trash differently to keep dump costs as low as possible. Wastes are materials that cannot be re-used, but some materials can be recycled. Recycling these materials reduces the amount of trash that goes into the compactor and there fore saves the town (read: the taxpayers) money..
Please separate glass and paper from your trash and bring them to the recycle shed at the dump.

GLASS: Clean green, brown and clear glass. No automobile glass. Remove jar lids. labels and metal rings can be left on.

PAPER: Newspaper, magazines, mail and scrap paper should be placed flat (not crumpled) in paper bags. If you are out of bags, tie the bundles with string. Please do not include cardboard cereal boxes with this paper.

Although we are not able to now, we hope to start recycling corrugated cardboard and cans at some point. In order to cut down on the volume of materials in the compactor, corrugated cardboard can be put in the landfill. Yard wastes and scrap building materials can also be put in the landfill.

We hope recycling will remain voluntary. This, of course, will depend upon your response. Experiment at home! The best way for you will become obvious in time. The worst scenario is rising taxes to cover dump costs to dispose of wasted valuables.
Please begin to recycle now.

Wendell Solid Waste Committee
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Before the Settlers Came

"Before the settlers came" is a hand-knotted tapestry created by Wendell resident Barbara Clearwater Liberty of Dancing Hand Tapestries, funded by a grant from the Wendell Free Arts Council.

"When I researched this project I was hoping to find a native American folktale that I could base it on. The native people of this area had all been killed, forced to leave, or had died of illness very early in American history, and most of the records are tales of battles. I decided to create this peaceful scene of Wendell before the settlers came."

This beautiful tapestry is on permanent display in the Wendell Town Hall. It is a treasure for all to see.

Book on Quabbin

After nearly three years of research and hundreds of miles of travel, a Palmer man has completed his second book on the Quabbin Reservoir and the flooded communities of the Swift River Valley.

The book, entitled, "A Place Called Quabbin", has just become available and can be purchased at area cook stores and for fund-raising purposes from the Swift River Valley Historical Society in New Salem and the Friends of Quabbin, Inc. at the Quabbin Visitor Information Center to which the author has generously donated hundreds of copies.

The book's author, former Palmer Planning Board Chairman and current Palmer License Commissioner, Joseph Wm. Russell, is a former staff reporter for The Journal Register and is currently President of the Friends of Quabbin.

According to Russell, this work is considerably different in content and scope from his previous work, whcih focused on buildings and church bells that were relocated out of the Swift River Valley communities, before the Valley was flooded by the waters of Quabbin. This work focuses on the broader aspects of life within the former Valley communities and upon the Valley, itself from the turn of this century up to the present moment in time.

The book is dedicated to the author's family and to Les and Terry Campbell "...for their abiding devotion to preserving everything that is beautiful within the Quabbin Reservation." It was through the efforts of the Campbells that the Quabbin Visitor Information and Interpretive Center came into being.

Russell says the book contains nearly 75 rarely seen photographs and documents which chronicle the events of the Swift River Valley before, during, and after the creation of Quabbin Reservoir. Virtually all of the material used in the book came from Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) archival records and from the private collections of former Swift River Valley Residents, including Russell's mother, who is a former resident of Greenwich.

Russell works for the MDC's Division of Watershed Management as head administrative assistant and special assistant to the Director.

Terry Campbell

Friends of Quabbin Collection

Around this time every year, the Friends of Quabbin dust off their growing permanent collection of Quabbin photographs, lithos, and art work to exhibit through the summer months. Many new pieces have been added over the past year and are being exhibited for the first time.

Although the primary medium of this exhibit is photography, other art forms are being sought. The common denominator is that all pieces must be of Quabbin or the flora and fauna which abounds therein.

The sources of this collection are as varied as the subjects themselves; some come as outright gifts, some are actively sought from area artists and photographers whose work is exemplary, while funding for some comes from area Arts Lottery Councils.

Included in this current exhibit are "Coyote Pups" and "Woodchuck" by Bill Fornier of Gardner; a pair of limited edition prints of a White-crowned and a White-throated sparrow by Don Whitlatch of West Virginia, gift of Mr.&Mrs. Stephen Merken of Beverly, Mass.; an early morning mood shot of a Quabbin fisherman and "Common Loon" by Paul Rezendes of South Royalston; three nature photographs by John Green of Amherst; two studies of White-tail bucks by photographers, Mark Picard of Hatfield and Al Brunelle of Brookfield; "Ruffed Grouse" by Tom Tyning of Lennox; "Crayfish" and "Brook Trout" by Alan Landry of Orange; "Beaver" by Gary Perham of Belchertown; and "Great Blue Heron" by Bill Byrne of Barre.

Continuing on exhibit are seven 30" X 40" black and white aerial photographs taken in 1930 of the towns which were inundated by Quabbin Reservoir as well as several "Then and Now" historic photographs. This exhibit will remain until September.

The Visitor Center is open from 7:30 AM to 4 PM from Monday to Friday and from 10 AM to 4 PM on weekends. It is located off Route 9 in Belchertown at Winsor Dam. Telephone: (413) 323-7221.

Terry Campbell

Friends of Quabbin Awarded Matching Grant

There is a new face this summer at the Quabbin Visitor Infromation Center. Maria Hass, a student from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York will be working with Lois Barnes on preserving the history of the Swift River Valley through the auspices of the Yankee Intern Program. Their project will take them throughout New England interviewing former residents of the lost towns. This project grew out of the "Tuesday Teas" which are held each week at the Quabbin Visitor Information Center. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, people who once lived in the valley are invited to stop by to reminisce. The objective of the project is to record the personal memoirs of as many of these former residents as possible.

The "Yankee Intern Program" is a cooperative effort of Yankee Publishing, Inc. and the Northeast Region of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each summer, approximately 40 students are matched with sponsors in New England and New York state in projects rangings from architectural preservation to historic interpretation. The

cont' p.6

Color, Sound + Movement-
a menagerie at day care

The brilliance of life is what children are all about. Think of each child you've ever met as a ray of color from the rainbow or a note of many octaves. Each one, as individual as they may be expresses a star in the sky, a lifetime, a song. Children radiate a special purity and crave to touch and explore and become a part of a thriving physical plane, yet they know so well the inner planes that inspire them so purely.

Children thrive on the sounds and color of nature. The feel of the wind as one season passes to the next never goes unnoticed. A comparison is likely to be made between a yellow and brown leaf as opposed to purple and pink ones by the scrutinizing eye of a 3 year old.

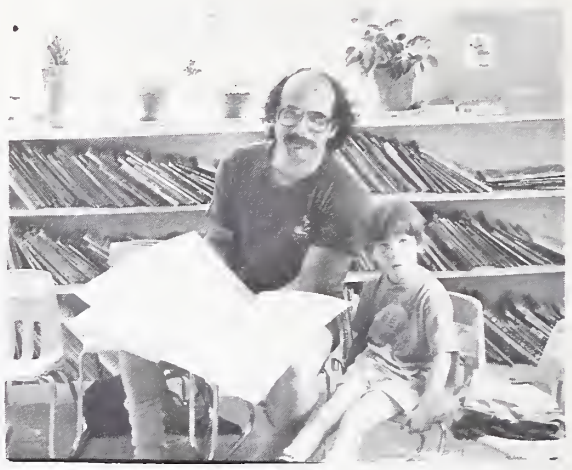
A toddler may be seen lying casually on the grass gathering the true texture of clover or an exuberant 5 year old may marvel at the color of a passing bird. Nature gives children an bundance of expression for their ideals and curiosity. Nature promises the eternal recycling of life and attunes them to true life experiences.

I work with children on a day to day basis and lately have been working with stone and crystal in my pre-school groups. I first spoke to the children about how before there were the stores, the movies and everyday conveniences, many, like our Native American Tribes, relied on nature for sustenance, beauty, and the lessons that it taught day to day. One such lesson is that all things contain life and the life within and such thing like a plant, a rock etc. could speak to us about the earth. I then passed out some assorted crystals and asked the children to either hold the stone in their hands, next to their ear or on their forehead. To me this is a s imple meditation exercise, not only to appreciate nature but also to appreciate their inner selves. Some of the children got a specific message from the stone like "The stone said it loved me", "The stone said it came from the ocean." Whatever reaction accured, the children seemed to enjoy the inner relaxation and peacefulness of the exercise, and asked me to bring my crystals back.

Not too long after, children would bring me stones from the outdoors and marvel at their colors or shape. Soon there was a surge of rock migrations to various cubbies. Some children now bring gems from home.... and the many lazy afternoons spent musing over the shades of blue contained in my lapis lazuli necklace.

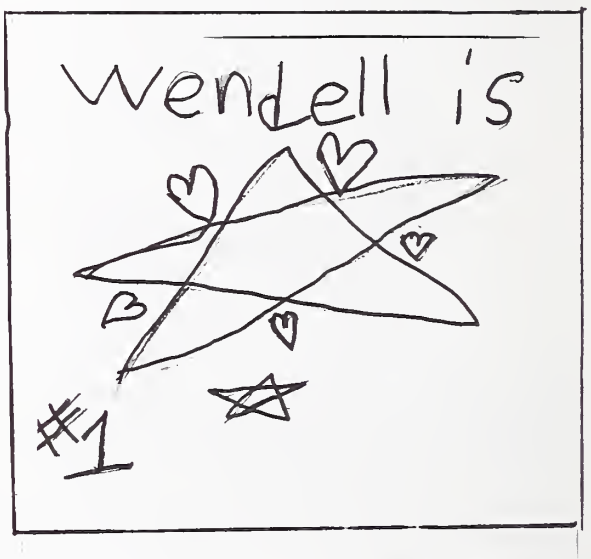
My favorite is always diapering time when the youngest of toddlers would while being changed, carefully study my purple flourite and say "Daria, I like your crystal, it's purple, it's pretty". It has always been a marvel to me how these little ones so rapidly intuitively understand the healing properties of gems and stones in the way they are attracted to them. I constantly learn from them the more permanent lessons that the stones have to give and especially that which our young ones are.

Daria Nielson



Mez Davis

"Last Day of School" Jim Slavas and son, Seth Peter Lawrence Slavas enjoy the "Little Red Hen" compiled by the children of Swift River Preschool through the Essential Skills Grant.



Margaret "Meg" Scott, Wendell, Grade 2

Compost

I like keeping a compost; it is like keeping a low demand, useful pet. You feed it your leftovers, and anything that rots, including old coffee grounds inside the filter paper, and used tea bags (without the tags which have poison in the color inks). It especially likes those unrecognizeable things from the back of the refrigerator. It asks for nothing more. I like to keep mine fenced for dogs, and I don't like to feed it too much paper, but I love to see how it eats bulky things like corn husks. You put them in one day and they make the pile a foot taller. A week later, they are gone, and the pile back to its normal size.

Sometimes you get bugs. Fruit flies seem to like a healthy pile, and they never go very far from it, so I just leave them alone. I have never noticed house flies, or garbage flies, but when there is an insect I don't like, I cover the pile with a thin layer of lime, dirt, and/or mulch hay, until they go away,

I have never had a problem with smell in a cooking compost pile, but sometimes the small bucket we keep in the kitchen for daily scraps gets bad at the bottom; the smell goes away when you put it on the pile and if it doesn't, you can cover it with lime, dirt or hay. Once we had 30 rotten eggs from some hens that were setting and then gave up; when I put them on top of the pile it smelled so bad I covered them with manure to hide the smell, and help them cook down. Then I covered the manure with lime, hay or dirt, I forget which; the smell was gone.

In fact, maybe the best part about composting is this: If you compost your scraps, and wash out your jars for recycling, and your cans before trashing them, your household trash has no smell; it attracts no flies no matter how long you keep it between dump trips.

Last year, as winter approached and the layer of recognizeable vegetables on top of the pile got all frozen together, I removed the fence and set it up nearby to start a new pile. I covered the old pile with hay so in the spring melt it would look like a small haystack coming out of the snow, and not a pile of garbage. My plan worked and this spring, once the inside thawed and started cooking, the pile shrank from almost four feet tall to about six inches, with a few tomatoes and some squashes sprouting up around the edges.

This year's pile has a row of squashes at the bottom and a potato coming out of the top.

Joshua Heinemann

Friends

cont' from p. 5

"Friends of Quabbin" were selected from over 300 applicants to participate in this program. The internship is for 12 weeks during the summer ending on August 28.

People with memories of the Swift River Valley are encouraged to come in any weekday from 9 to 4 to talk with Lois and Maria to make their knowledge a part of the public record for future generations. Weekend appointments can also be made. Calling first is always a good idea; 413-323-7221. The Visitor Center is located off route 9 in Belchertown at Windsor Dam.

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Celebrate Zucchini

Mez Davis

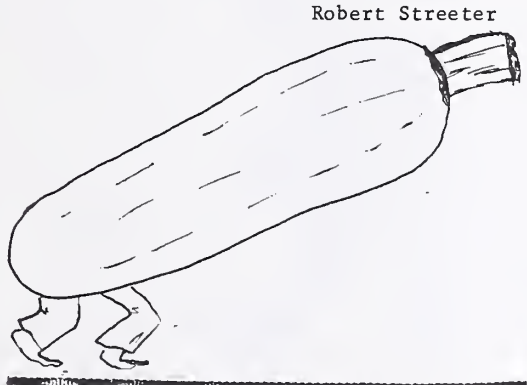
"ZUKES INVADE CITY" flash the August headlines in Keene, New Hampshire. "Our last hope, perhaps our only hope, is for people to bring their zucchinis to the 6th Annual International Zucchini Festival on August 22nd," said a leader of the Zucchini Central Committee, a group dedicated to saving Earth from being overwhelmed by zucchinis. "We don't want to scare people," the committee member said, "but if they don't come to the festival or bring their zucchinis there for eradication, southwestern New Hampshire may end up being a permanent repository for zuclear waste."

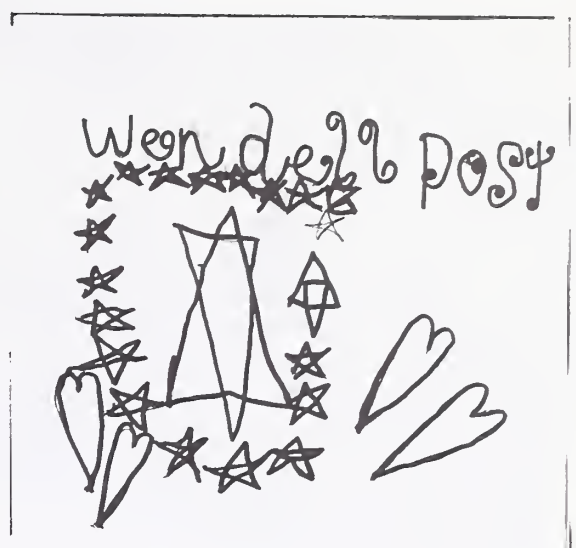
It is one of New England's most magical festivals, with an entire day filled with games and events that focus on a zucchini theme. You can exercise with zuke aerobics, carve and sculpt zucchinis for judged contests, build zucchini ships for the magnificent zucchini regatta, race zucchinis on wheels, etc., or participate in other events such as the Longest Bicycle Jump Over Zucchini, Most People Squashed Into A Zucchini Crate, and the crowning of Zucchini Queen and the Zuke of Earl. Zucchinis can also be entered into some 36 categories which are housed in Agricultural Hall (a huge tent), including Best Zucchini In A Bottle, Best Zucchini Essay, Best Photo Of A Zucchini at a U.S. Landmark, and Farthest Traveled Zucchini (last year's winner was a shriveled specimen smuggled out of Russia, not far from Chernobyl).

The festival's main beneficiary is the Harrisville School in Harrisville, New Hampshire, where Amy Carter now teaches, former Wendellite and Swift River School teacher. It is held on the grounds of Keene State College in Keene, with a $3.00 admission charge for adults, and $1.00 for kids. For more information contact:

Zucchini Central
P.O. Box 128
Harrisville, NH 03450
603-827-3033

Robert Streeter





Shoshanna Gross, Wendell, Grade 2

Route 2 Bridge at Wendell Depot

The conservation Commission has learned that this month (Aug. 1987) the bids go out, and contruction may begin in Sept., to completed in Sept. '88. The next bridge is to be 6 feet wider than the old one and to be supported on 7 long girders set parallel to each other intead of the 2 girders of the old bridge.

Throughout the demolition of the old bridge and the erection of the next one, every effort is to be made to prevent materials from falling into the river. Also disruption of traffic on Rte. 2 is to kept to the minimum, as also is disruption on the Wendell Depot Rd.

To accomodate a wider bridge, the app - roaches and the supporting columns will have to be refashioned somewhat and this work also is to be done with minimal environmental damage. Finally, the temporary support and its artificail rip-rap base will be removed without polluting the river and all things at the site returned to their original condition as nearly as possible.

Charles Smith

Wendell Old Home Day

Wendell Old Home Day was a great success this year from all angles. Talking with the organizers after the event had passed, we all seemed very pleased with the turnout and more specifically with the amount of time and energy townspeople put into helping make this Old Home Day one of the most enjoyable for us and themselves. From the puppet workshop to the photo display to the kazoo band to the clown show to the great music performances and so much more was a joy for all to be able to take in and be part of. The Wendell Old Home Day Comm. would like to thank all (and there were many) who did something to make this day happen for us all.

Mike Wing's License

The license application has been approved in principle. The document has actually been signed, but it does not become fully effective until all the conditions as stipulated by the Selectboard shall have been fully met by the applicant, Michael Wing.

Wing expects to have met all conditions by the 10th of August, by which date the Selectboard will be officially back from vacation and can then grant the permit. (For details see previous issue.)

Charles Smith

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Swimming Lessons

From July 13 - July 24 the following Wendell children took part in swim instructions paid for the town of Wendell and sponsored by the Shutesbury Recreation Committee and the American Red Cross: Brian Puchalski, Tara Murphy, Jessica Murphy, Gerald Facey, Michael Bergman, Kelsey Flynn, Mike Bean, Caralee Manley, Liam Walsh, Melinda Hatch, Miranda Bean, Joshua Bean, Jermia Murphy, Clara Keller, Jim Facey, Jenny Salls, Caleb Keller, Richard Wilder, Luke Bloomfield, Darcy Flynn, Jesse Browning, Mark Puchalski, Ariel Pearson, Asha Wild, Ishana Strazzero, Leah Tanner Davis, Sean Daley, Jesse Ed Davis, Allanah Kowacki, Andrew MacIntosh, Liam Cohen, Rachel MacIntosh, Rebecca Wilder, Seth Lawrence Slavas.

Approximately 35 children from Wendell drove with parents of caretakers to the Lake Wyola Free Beach every morning (give or take a few) to be instructed for 45 minutes.

For the younger children, water adjustment was the focus for the first week. This involves getting a child comfortably in the water and ultimately getting their head under water with breath control.

The older beginners studied and worked on their stroke techniques, endurance and longer breath control under water as well as water safety skills and rescues. We all had a lot of fun teaching and learning from each other. New friends were made on the beach and old friendships were rekindled as children swam or played.

Instructors were from both towns (Kathy Carey Joan Patterson, Mez Davis, Nina Keller and Gayle Snow).

Here in Franklin County well, were a close knit bunch. Congratulations to all the above children who worked hard to improve their water safety skills and swimming techniques.

Library Program Well Attended

The Wendell Free Library was home base for a 6 week Arts and Crafts program sponsored by the Friends of the Library on Tuesday afternoons. The children, led by Mez Davis of Day Dream Delight enjoyed co-operative games, singing, theater, stories and 2 and 3 dimensional art projects.

Currently on display at the library are puppets, monsters and collage works.

Approximately twenty children enjoyed this free arts program. Important in helping the younger children were David Judice, Kristina Hartjens, Dawn Rose and Anita Miller.

Mez Davis

Day Dream Delight--Arts and Crafts Program funded by Friends of the Library. Jessica Murphy and Allanah Kowacki creating works of art in the Wendell Free Library.

Harmonic Convergence

Word has it that the ancient and most profoundly accurate Mayan Calendar earmarks August 16th as a turning point in our civilization. We are saying good-bye to one era and truly entering into the dawn of the "new age." And changes don't always come easy - even for Mother Earth - so there will be seen and felt an acceleration of earth changes for cleansing - so the earth can prepare herself for the greater emergence and solidification of peace, love and pure light upon this planet. This information is not new to many people, but August 16 & 17 is indeed an intensification of the celestial heavenly energies directed toward the earth and her people; thus as the name implies: Harmonic Convergence. We people of earth will truly receive a shower of love, light and peace from the divine sources; and there are many emissaries available to help disseminate the purity of love, light and peace to all of us.

The Mayans have much wisdom to give us. It's as if there will be a big birthday bash across the planet - and everyone is asked to clean and wash up first and then bring a gift of peace to the party. Do take time for yourself, though, and imagine how your thoughts and actions can best bring peace into yourself, your family, your work, your play - your life! Every one person makes a difference individually, and then collectively we can bring peace, order and harmony into alignment with our peoples and our planet earth. Keep up the good work, everyone! We can do it.

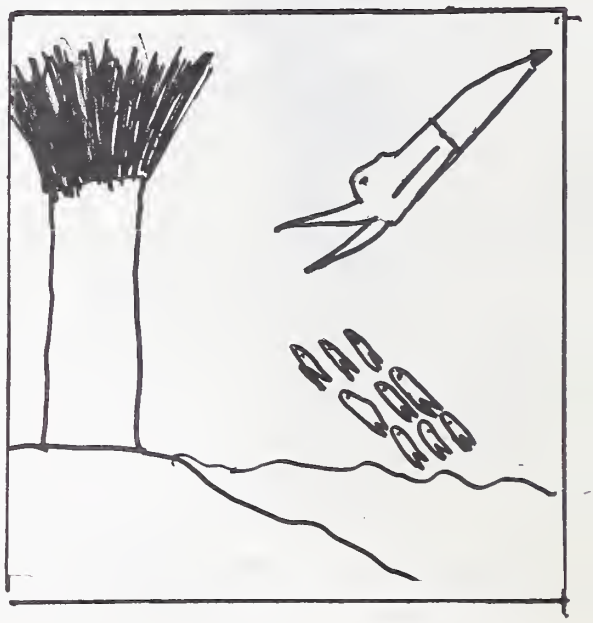
If anyone would like to celebrate in the sunrise on August 16th - meet at the base of Craig Mtn. in Northfield by 5:15 AM. Then blueberry pancakes and coffee will be available to share at Clare Green's home afterward. For more information call 4-7421.

Clare Green

News from Boy Scout Troop # 344

On the weekend of June 21, the Boy Scout Troop 344 of Wendell and New Salem was doing their most favorite thing - CAMPING! In fact, they camped along the edge of Wickett Pond where the boys collected wood debris and made their own raft a la Huck Finn; and they even carved out wood to make oars for the raft. The photo shows Matt Chase trying out the raft and oars; while Ned Green awaits his turn from the shore. Not only did the boys raft, but they also canoed, thanks to Ray Ducharme, and they fished--enough for a small fish fry. On land the usual events of digging latrines, tenting, making campfires, clean up, and of course, roasting marshmellows were shared by all. Troop 344 is under the leadership of Jay Blackbird. Ed Chase assists with camping adventures.

Clare Green



Gabriel Drohen, Wendell, Grade 2

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Fun in the sun, water and sand at Ruggles Pond.

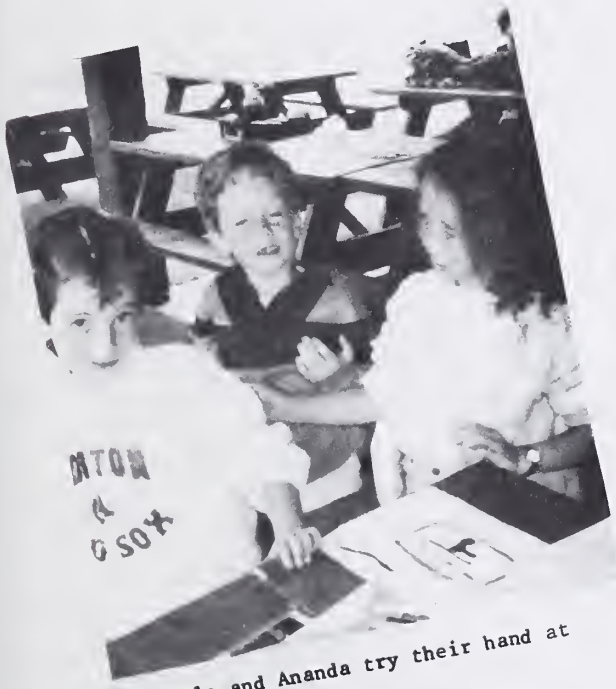
Natalie Nalepinski shares a story and the surprise box at snack time.

Jacob, Micah and Kyle enjoy lunch break after a long "Elfland" hike around the pond.

Jump for Joy Camp 1987

Jump for Joy Camp was held at Swift River School and directed by Claire Green. Assistant director was Natalie Nalepinski.

Rosa Kessler and all play leap frog across the field for 20 minutes. Wow!



Micah, Kyle and Ananda try their hand at a Mohawk Hairstyle.

Sky Angels

Hawk circles and flies cloudward
I honor the heart within the soul
Which bespeaks the majesty to behold.
Enraptured by wind - Listen, breathe
We are all one...
While the soft glow of a master's touch
Paints the sky once more...
Only to knock at the door of my infinite flower,
And fragances blind into celestial melodies.
The colors whisper to me once more,
I AM that I AM.

D.C. Green

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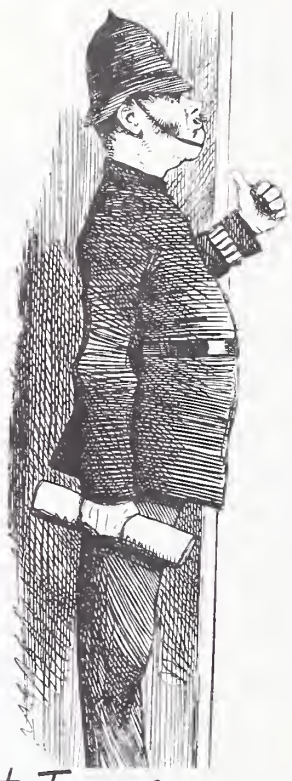
David Mallett is surprise participant at one of Wendell's summer Sing-alongs. Funded by the Arts Lottery Council

Mez Davis

Fire Truck Comm. Appointed

In accordance with Special Town Meeting instructions, the Wendell Town Moderator has organized a five person committee to study the purchase of a new cab and chassis for the existing tanker of the Wendell Fire Dept. The committee members are: Ted Lewis (selectboard), Stephen Broll (finance com.), Chief Everett Ricketts (W.F.D.). The two ad hoc members are Thomas Wetherby and Ed Farmer. Their first meeting has been scheduled. The committee faces a fall deadline in order to report their findings at the next anticipated Special Town Meeting. Many thanks to these committee members for taking on this responsibility.

Kathy Becker
Moderator



Next Issue

Oct./Nov.
meeting Sept. 14th
copy deadline Sept. 28th
Stories, photos must be at Wendell Ct. Store by deadline.

Hgwy Barn Update

Currently work proceeds on erecting a four-foot high chain-link fence to run on the southern and eastern sides of the site, separating it from the Powling pasture.

Selectboard member Michael Idoine says: "We are organizing to hire contractors. It appears that the Town is likely to act as general contractor - largely as a cost-saving measure."

No ground-breaking date has been set yet.

Charles Smith

Police Log

5-26-87	Janet Burnstein on Bullard Pasture Rd. had items stolen from house under construction. Items were one G.E. portable radio and one 10" Sears Craftsman table saw.
6-11-87	Report of loud party on Locks Village Rd.
6-12-87	Family dispute on Locks Village Rd.
6-19-87	John Carey reported his bulldozer stolen. It was recovered.
6-21-87	Family disturbance on Wickett Pond Rd.
6-24-87	Family disturbance on Locks Village Rd.
7- 1-87	Dog harassing joggers on Locks Village Rd.
7- 8-87	Deer hit and killed on Farley Rd.
8- 2-87	Person on Lock Hill complaining of harassing phone calls.

Fire Log

4-5-87 Pumped out flooded cellar. West Rd.
4-11-87 Railroad fire.
4-20-87 False alarm on Stone Rd.
5-13-87 Pumped out cellar in Wendell Depot.
5-24-87 Railroad fire
5-25-87 Rekindle on railroad fire.
5-26-87 Sawmill fire on Locksvillage Rd.
5-27-87 Smoldering on sawmill fire.
6-15-87 Utility pole fire on Farley Rd.

Land Transfers

1/21/87	Fleury, James P. to Potter, Claudia P. and Knox, Michael, Bullard Pastur road
2/5/87	Jones, Walter C. to Department of Environmental Management, West side of Kempfield
2/6/87	Lojander, Edwin F. and Helen C. to Gardner, Gary, East Section of Wendell

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